



ROOM OF MY DREAMS

YEARBOOK 2009

A year of learning with...

HCLN 
Halifax Community Learning Network
"a bridge to a brighter future"

This book is dedicated to Linda Oakley, an excellent teacher, tutor and Coordinator of the Captain William Spry Library Adult Learning Program since 2002.

From helping with community outreach to arranging craft workshops for her students, Linda is a dedicated adult educator who is a true friend to her volunteers, learners and literacy. Thank you Linda, for remaining enthusiastic after almost a decade of work with community education.



Linda Oakley, Barb Pottier and Avril Lewis celebrate Barb's success at the Captain William Spry Library Adult Learning Program.

The Halifax Community Learning Network (HCLN) is one of thirty-one community-based adult learning programs funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development's Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning.

This year, HCLN offered free programs for adults at the Captain William Spry Public Library, Halifax North Public Library, Keshen Goodman Public Library, Spring Garden Road Public Library and at the Lady Hammond Learning Program.

If you know someone who needs help improving their literacy skills or are interested in volunteering, please contact us at:

(902) 422-7648

hcln@ns.sympatico.ca

www.hcln.ca

For information about other learning opportunities in Nova Scotia, check out the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning web site at:

www.goNSSAL.ca or call 1-877-466-7725

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Introduction

It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce **Room of My Dreams: a year of learning with the Halifax Community Learning Network**. The title for the 2009 yearbook comes from a piece of writing by Kerry Ann Fitzpatrick of the Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program.



Enjoying a break from work with a day at the beach and a new puppy, Fuser

Like many of those who study with HCLN, Kerry Ann juggles the responsibilities of work and home to attend tutoring and pursue her dreams. It is an honour to be involved in helping Kerry and the others who have contributed to Room of My Dreams and a pleasure to share in the success this book represents. I am continually amazed at what HCLN students are capable of: the challenges overcome, the courage shown and their enthusiasm for learning is evident in these pages. Several students also had their writing published elsewhere this year including the National Adult Literacy Database Story of the Week, the Learning Beacon and the journal Women's Perspectives. You are great writers!

In addition to the writing of HCLN students, the yearbook includes messages from staff, community partners and thoughts from some of the many volunteers who have donated more than 5,000 hours this year as tutors. All of your efforts and continued work are inspiring.

By working together- government, community-based organizations, volunteers and students- we are building a bridge to a brighter future right here in Halifax.

Thank you for your support and I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Enjoy!

-Denise Morley, Network Coordinator

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have provided support this year and helped to make HCLN programs and this book possible. We couldn't do it without you!

- The dedicated students who attend our programs and put their faith in us to assist them in their learning. We exist because of your commitment to improving your skills and we will continue to do our best to help you reach your goals. Thanks for your trust.
- HCLN volunteers- a vast and varied group that includes board members, tutors and many others who are willing to share their commitment to literacy and our community by lending a helping hand. This year, HCLN Treasurer Lori Haines was honoured with a well-deserved HRM Volunteer Recognition Award and CWS tutor Gordon Barnes celebrated his thirteenth year as a volunteer. These are just two examples from the more than 150 people who work tirelessly to help with jobs both big and small. Every effort is appreciated.
- A special thanks to the HCLN design team, Wil Gamble and Matt Likely, former staff of Minutemen Press, who long ago offered to help with 'one little thing' that HCLN was producing. Little did they know that a few years later, they would be my go-to guys for help with computer glitches, posters, pamphlets and this lovely yearbook. Thanks Matt and Wil for your patience and countless hours of volunteer time.
- The Program Coordinators, old and new, who face the many challenges of their job with humour, grace and seemingly endless energy. Laura Channon and Linda Oakley bring a wealth of experience to their work and continue to come up with new ideas for improving program delivery. This year's 'rookies', Jen Hill and Pat Roberts have both worked as tutors before taking over the task of Program Coordinators and have proven to be enthusiastic and excellent in their new positions. All of them are deeply committed to providing their students and volunteers with every learning opportunity possible. Thank you for a great year!
- Literacy Educator Avril Lewis, who provides tutor training workshops to new volunteers and is always willing to share her expertise with others. This year, Avril participated in the NSSAL tutor training revision project sponsored by Literacy Nova Scotia, the pilot of a new assessment tool developed by Pat Campbell of Grassroots Press and volunteered her time as a tutor at the Captain William Spry Library. Avril is an invaluable resource to this Network and to the literacy community.
- Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning, Department of Labour & Workforce

Development and in particular, A-Manager Lynne Wells-Orchard for her continued guidance and support.

- Our partners in program delivery, the Halifax Public Libraries and HRDA / Options Work Activity who provide space for programs and workshops and much support to the staff, volunteers and learners at HCLN. A special thanks to the following HPL staff: Tracey Jones, Sandy Crocker, Troy Myers, Scott Taylor, Dorothy Minaker, Marlene Fitch, Sarah Wenning, Helen Thexton, Ron Bulmer, Radenka Vidovic, Kristina Parlee, Sarah Gillis, Cheryl Black and Sherry Butcher for all your help.
- Literacy Nova Scotia for their support of the adults who return to learning at community-based programs and the Networks who serve them. This year, LNS sponsored Literacy Action Week activities, a celebration of Adult Learners Week and much more. Of particular benefit to us was the LNS PD grant to support Learning Together, a day of workshops for literacy tutors during National Volunteer Week. Thanks Jayne, Heather and Marie for all your help!
- Ann Marie Downie, Executive Director of Literacy Nova Scotia, a passionate advocate for the cause of literacy and a friend to HCLN.
- The National Adult Literacy Database (www.nald.ca) who provide support by hosting the HCLN web-site and posting our many stories and poems on their Story of the Week site. A particular thanks to Tracey Hines, Earl Letts and Lorette Chiasson at NALD.
- Jenni Blackmore for sharing her passion for writing and ideas on how to get started with all of us at HCLN.
- Our partners on the NSSAL Regional Planning Team and in particular, the community-based organizations including the Dartmouth Learning Network, Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network,, Western HRM Community Learning Network, Preston Area Learning Skills Society, Black Educators Association, Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley Literacy Network and the Cunard Learning Centre.
- The newly formed Association of Nova Scotia Community Learning Organizations for their efforts to improve conditions for those who both learn and work in community literacy.
- Charles Ramsey, former Executive Director of NALD and passionate literacy advocate, for your support over the years including most recently, speaking at the HCLN AGM.
- David Pilmer and Meredith Hutchings of NSSAL, Tammy Harrison of NSCC and Mary Moore of the Dartmouth Learning Network for giving up a Saturday and sharing your knowledge and teaching tips with us at Learning Together.

Halifax Community Learning Network Board 2008-09

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Message from Ann Marie Downie

Executive Director, Literacy Nova Scotia

This year the theme of The Canadian Commission for UNESCO's Adult Learners' Week was "Living and Learning for a Viable Future – The Power of Adult Learning." Learning is power. That is why it is so important for us to learn all through our lives. It is vital for how we develop as human beings and it is part of who we are and what we become, whether we are 6 months, 6 years, or far beyond, at 66 or 96 years. I am in my senior years now and learning is more important to me than ever before as I plan for retirement and the next phase of my life. The blessing for me is that I know I will continue to learn, grow and explore new things. And truly, it is my right to do that.



*Literacy Nova Scotia Executive Director
Ann Marie Downie*

Literacy Nova Scotia celebrated Adult Learners' Week with a contest and an event. The contest winners spoke of their struggles and their rewards. What they had to say was inspirational and personal. They are examples of what it means to be adult learners. Every one of them took an important step forward and not without fear about whether they would fit into the learning environment. Each one saw that she or he has an important place and important role in our society. Because they, as well as the approximately 4000 others in programs all around this province, took that big step they are creating a stronger and more viable future for themselves and all of us. I am confident that all Nova Scotians benefited.

Learning is a personal journey but the spin-offs affect many. The dad who goes to classes after work is giving his children a message about the importance of learning that no lesson taught in a classroom can give them. Or the employer whose business benefits when he gives a well deserved promotion to a woman because she has improved her reading and writing skills and got a confidence boost from being able to say to herself, "I can do this!" Or the

love that is shared when a grandchild gets an email birthday message from her grandmother. And then there is the simple joy of reading a book on a rainy Sunday afternoon and being able to say the next day that rainy days are never boring. There are so many stories about the power of learning!

The time is right for an even stronger belief in the power of learning. And we need every Nova Scotian to be inspired by role models like the people whose writings you will read in this book. The reasons for participating in a learning program are as varied as the people there. Each reason is important and each person should be honoured and valued because when put all together they form communities where people believe in learning and the power that comes from it.

I want to thank Denise for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts in this book. It is an honour for me to offer congratulations to all the HCLN learners and the many others who work alongside them in their learning journey. Good work is done every day and lives are changed in big ways and small every day. That is the power of learning.

Message from Board Chair, Joshua Judah

I am proud to celebrate my second year as Chair of the Halifax Community Learning Network with the publication of this yearbook, *Room of My Dreams: a year of learning with HCLN*.

One of my own personal highlights this year was participating in the All Courts Education Seminar with literacy advocates Ann Marie Downie, Lorri Bower, Charles Ramsey and Denise Morley. Rarely does one have the opportunity to combine their profession with their volunteer work, but this day-long session on Literacy & the Law gave me the chance to share my passion for community education with others in the legal field. As a lawyer in HRM, I am pleased that judges in Nova Scotia are sensitive to the literacy issues facing many who appear before them.

The stories within *Room of My Dreams* are only a part of the success that we have achieved as an organization and as individuals in this past year and I wish to congratulate every student who has placed their trust in HCLN as they work toward their various goals. With such committed students, volunteers

and staff, I have no doubt that HCLN will continue to grow and play a vital role in the adult education community.

It has been a pleasure to be involved in such an essential and successful organization and I wish everyone at HCLN a great summer and all the best for the future.

HCLN: One Students Story

Michael Kamara, Captain William Spry Library

Michael Sillah Kamara, his wife and four-year-old daughter arrived in Halifax in the winter of 2007. Michael, 29, had moved his young family from their war-ravaged homeland, Sierra Leone, to start a new life in Canada. Michael had lost a leg in Sierra Leone's civil war—one of thousands of civilians maimed by the country's warring factions.

Despite past hardships, Michael has eagerly embraced learning opportunities in Halifax. First, he signed up for English classes at the Cunard Learning Centre. Then he moved on to the Flexible Learning Extension Centre (FLECs) to get his high-school diploma.



*David Porter, Michael Kamara and
Linda Oakley at the Captain William
Spry Library*

One night a week Michael gets extra tutoring at the Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program. “The thing I like best about the Captain William Spry tutoring program is the way Linda [Oakley] is helping me in reading and writing and to improve my English,” Michael says. “I also like the friendship of the people at the library as it gives me more confidence and motivates me to continue my studies.”

Michael is determined to work hard and get his high-school diploma. He's been thinking a lot about what he wants to do when he graduates. He has considered accounting, but knows that he has a lot of work ahead of him. “I

like math, but I don't think math likes me," he laughs.

He is also interested in working in the area of prosthetics and orthotics. "I would like to help people who have problems like I do. I would like to work as a technician to help people who have lost their limbs."

While his wife, who had been working full time, is expecting their second child, Michael has taken a job at the Halifax Infirmary hospital as a patient attendant. He works the overnight shift and then heads to school in the morning. He returns home by noon to pick up his daughter from her school.

Even with a short interruption in his full-time schooling, Michael is focused on a long-term plan. "I expect to graduate by September 2009," he says. "That's my plan. And I have to work hard. What I do next will depend on my grades. I have to get good marks."

That's why the tutoring help at the Captain William Spry Library is so important. "Thanks to people like Linda and my tutor, David Porter, I get the help I need," Michael says.

By Cecelia McGuire, Prosebusters

This story first appeared on the UNESCO International Adult Learners Week web-site.

To read more stories, check out: <http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx#LEARNERSSTORIES>

Message from Lynne Wells-Orchard,

A-Manager, Adult Education

Labour and Workforce Development

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the continuing fine work that staff, volunteers and adult learners do in HCLN. To highlight some changes and activities, I'll begin with congratulations to the two new coordinators, Jennifer Hill and Patricia Roberts for completing your first year of responsibilities. I hope the year was instructive and not too challenging. I'm confident that Linda Oakley, Laura Channon, Avril Lewis and Denise Morley gave you much support over the year.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the pilot of the new assessment tool developed by Pat Campbell and to Avril Lewis for her contributions to the revision of the current Tutor and Instructor Program. Also thanks to learners and practitioners for input into the Learner Services Focus Group sessions for Literacy Nova Scotia.

In addition to all of this, there were many professional development activities held at HCLN, including the successful Learning Together event which, as always, worked so well due to hours of preparation and planning by staff and volunteers.

Special thanks must go to your excellent administrator, Denise Morley, for her ever-present professionalism and dedication to ensuring that HCLN runs smoothly. She regularly attends Regional Planning Team monthly meetings to represent the interests of HCLN and to share expertise with colleagues. Thank you, Denise for all that you do.

Congratulations to the learners who passed the GED exams this year and for those who tried, keep going. I hope that those who moved on to other programs will know how well HCLN has prepared you for new challenges. Keep writing those stories for NALD and the yearbook and other publications!

Thanks to Halifax Public Library and HRDA for support of the programs and your continuing interest in HCLN.

As the year ends, it's helpful to look back at the friendships that were made and the bonds that developed with volunteer tutors, staff and participants in HCLN programs. The volunteer board of HCLN has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide the best opportunities for success for everyone involved in adult learning at HCLN.

In our new Department of Labour and Workforce Development, the Adult Education Division, continues to grow and be challenged to support all adult Nova Scotians who want to improve literacy and essential skills for personal, career planning and employment. Please visit our website at www.goNSSAL.ca.

Have a great summer, everyone.

Message from Sandy Crocker

Halifax Public Libraries

This year marked a special year because we added two very dedicated coordinators to our team. Jen Hill and Pat Roberts joined us in September. Jen is coordinating the programs at the Halifax North Library and Pat is coordinating at Keshen Goodman. Both have been great additions.

In addition to new coordinators and the continued dedication of our existing coordinators, we have had a healthy response to our request for tutors. We saw a rise in tutor applicants and with that, we were able to take on more learners. According to the recent program surveys, many learners have indicated that the program helped them improve their confidence and self esteem. The learners also overwhelmingly said that the program helped them achieve their goals. With this kind of positive feedback from the learners, increased enrollment of new tutors and exceptional coordinators, I am very happy to report that we are making a difference in the lives of many. The stories in this yearbook are evidence of the progress we are making together.

Message from Linda Oakley

Coordinator, Captain William Spry Library Adult Learning Program

In my job as Literacy Coordinator at the Captain William Spry Public Library, I get to work as part of a wonderful team.

There are the volunteers who donate their time and expertise to help our learners. I admire their dedication to their learners. The learners often have to overcome great obstacles to return to learning. I admire their commitment to achieving their goals. The library offers us the space in which to hold our Literacy Programs. Staff at the library are knowledgeable and friendly. I admire the way they make our tutors and learners feel welcome when they enter the library for a tutoring session. Literacy Educator, Avril Lewis, who does training for the Halifax Community Learning Network, is another important part of the team. I admire her for the expertise and invaluable assistance she gives to all of us.

Lastly, but definitely not least, is Denise Morley, Coordinator of the Halifax

Community Learning Network, whose job encompasses many tasks. She holds orientations for new volunteers, organizes conferences, such as the Learning Together Workshops held on April 25 at the Captain William Spry Community Centre, and puts it all together for the yearbook in May. I admire her for the countless hours she puts in on behalf of Adult Literacy.

Part of my job as Literacy Coordinator entails matching tutors and learners. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to observe a room full of tutor/learner pairs actively engaged in learning. The air is electric!



*Captain William Spry Library Program
Coordinator Linda Oakley and friends*

When all the members of the team work together, wonderful things happen for Adult Literacy. The yearbook stories are just one result of our work. So when you read the following stories, stop and think about how many people it takes to assist an adult learner to achieve her/his academic and life goals. Together, we make a great team!

Message from Patricia Roberts

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program Coordinator

“I’m already nineteen,” he said. “It’s too late now.”

“It’s never too late,” I said.

The Book of Negroes

Lawrence Hill

© 2007

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This quote sums up my feelings about adult literacy in Nova Scotia: it really is never too late and I feel passionate about trying to help as many adults as we possibly can to achieve their personal goals.

This was my first year as Coordinator of the Adult Literacy Program at the

Keshen Goodman Public Library. I was a tutor with the program previously so understand first-hand the expectations of our tutors. I am incredibly impressed with the level of dedication and professionalism extended by our volunteer tutors. Their collective effort is truly overwhelming and I am extremely grateful to them. We exist thanks to our volunteers and I feel very fortunate to have worked with such an excellent group of individuals this year.

Next, I have to thank all of our learners. We had a wonderfully diverse group of students this year and I learned a great deal from each and every one of them. They are the reason we meet each week and I feel very lucky that they chose to walk through our doors. I hope to greet even more learners at Keshen Goodman next year.

Working with the literacy program this year has been very rewarding, both professionally and personally. The HCLN and the library have been very helpful in providing excellent professional development opportunities. The staff at the Keshen Goodman Library have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome and to help me navigate the library system. Many thanks to them, as well.

Thanks for a great year and I hope to welcome back all of our tutors and learners in September.

Message from Jen Hill

Halifax North and Spring Garden Road Library Program Coordinator

I can't believe it's June already! This year has flown by!

I would like to thank all the tutors and learners at the Spring Garden



Keshen Goodman Library Program Coordinator Patricia Roberts and her assistants present volunteer tutor Gary with his door prize at the Christmas party

and Halifax North Adult Literacy Programs so much for all I have learned from you this year. I appreciate the opportunity to be coordinator of this program and to work with such a fantastic group of people.

Thanks as well to all the staff at both libraries, Denise, Sandy and Avril for all your support to me and the programs. In my first year as Program Coordinator I have learned more than I imagined I could and know there is much more to come. I can truly say that I enjoy coming to work every day.



Halifax North and Spring Garden Library Program Coordinator Jennifer Hill and Wally learning together

It is wonderful to look back on the year and see what each student has learned and achieved. In particular, I love the enthusiasm for writing and publishing your work. I always look forward to reading what each person has written. I would like to say a special congratulations to several students who were accepted at Cunard Learning Centre this year to continue their learning. Congratulations as well to all learners for all your success this year. I admire the bravery and commitment of everyone who makes the decision to try to improve their education as an adult.

Keep up the good work and have a fantastic summer everyone! You deserve it!

Message from Laura Channon

Lady Hammond Learning Program Coordinator

Lady Hammond Learning had another successful year. Our success included 5 GED attempts, three of them successful and two others whose intent was to gauge the test and have a positive writing experience regardless of the result. More importantly, many individuals in the program gained the confidence

to tackle other issues due to improved problem solving skills. A few found jobs, others relate better to groups of people and many people reset priorities to match new and developing goals. I have enjoyed seeing this progress as much as the academic work.



*Lady Hammond Learning Program Coordinator
Laura Channon getting some teaching tips at the
Phonics workshop*

With the help of the volunteers we have developed new practice materials for the learners, taking into account the need to combine essential spelling and math drills with adult content. One student in particular has been useful in producing these documents as he learns word processing skills and spelling simultaneously. In general, computer skills were more in demand this year and I suspect will have more demand next year.

I would like to congratulate the individuals who succeeded in meeting their goals, including those who came for only a short time but left confident enough to move on to their next step. For many, this was a year of completion whether or not they had a certificate as proof.

My goals are to increase awareness in the community of programs like these so as to continue to see the diversity of learners and tutors that benefited the program so much this year. The group had very different needs and everyone showed a great amount of flexibility. I learned how a group of people can assist and provide moral support to fellow learners and how beneficial that feeling can be for the educational process.

Message from Jenni Blackmore

When I was a kid there were three things I was quite sure I would never be able to do: tie my shoes, tell the time, and decipher all the little squiggles on the pages of a book. Shoe tying, I discovered, was no big deal. Knowing that those little 'hands' on the 'face' of a clock were telling me that I was most likely late? Well, some things never change!

As for the squiggles on the pages, well they are still as mystical to me now as they were then and I still find it hard to imagine how the art of reading and writing evolved. It is amazing to me that anyone is able to figure it out so that at a glance the squiggles become words that in turn create images in our minds.

I love stories and as a non-reader I would try just staring at a page of words, hoping that by some strange alchemy other than reading they would be able to transfer the story into my head. That same head that was also bursting with stories of its own that it wanted to share in written form.

Such frustration! At the time it was on a par to not be allowed to attend a certain birthday party or have a special toy that seemed like it was the most wonderful thing in the world. The party and the toy would surely have lost their appeal pretty quick but reading and writing, never. Recently I heard a beautiful poem by a junior high school student. This poem described how the branch of a tree can reach for the sky but when it's made into a pencil even the sky is no limit. It went on to describe the various forms our writing can take.

We can write . . . about anything . . . and everything. And certainly for me, writing helps me to understand the tangled, swirling mass of thoughts that occupies my thinking. It might be in the form of a poem or a story or perhaps a personal statement on something I am intrigued by or feel strongly about. Often I let the pencil start moving around on the paper, knowing it will take care of the details and take me where I want to go.

It took me a long time to trust my pencil and the value of anything I had to say. Perhaps that is one of the hard parts of becoming a writer, because yes, it isn't at all easy. Knowing how hard it actually is makes me particularly proud for all the other writers in this book and to have my words included with theirs'. I like to think that deep in the night when no one is around all the words in this book will mingle together for a huge celebration, a event much more special than any party we might have missed as kids.

Write On!

Grampy on the Chicken Farm

By Percy Oliver

Halifax North Library Adult Learning Program

When Grampy was a boy and going to school, he would look out for his older brother and his younger sister and he would look after the chickens in the barn behind the house. Grampy would feed the chickens and give them water and collect the eggs in the nests.

Sometimes Grampy would leave an egg behind and watch a magical thing happen: the egg would turn into a chicken! The hen would lay on her egg and keep it warm until the chick could get free of the shell. After a hen had laid many eggs, Grampy would pick her up, take her outside, open his hands, and the hen would fly away.

She would look back at Grampy as if to say, “No more eggs!” and Grampy would say “Your shift has ended”.

Lighthouse

By Heather Kinkaid

Keshen Goodman Adult Learning Program

The light shining on the water

The light near by the boat,

The waves splashing hard on

the rocks.

The lighthouse spreads the

light during the stormy

night. The lighthouse warns

danger for boats to stay away

Lighthouse helps us.

My Neighbourhood

By Mary Thompson

Halifax North Public Library Adult Learning Program

If you come to my neighbourhood in the North End of Halifax this is what you would see. My street is called Brunswick Street. It has houses and apartment buildings. Some houses are over one hundred years old and they were built by wealthy sea captains and businessmen.



*Celebrating National Volunteer Week with a potluck
at Halifax North*

Most days you can see Mrs. Brown walking her dog. In the winter I see men cracking the hard ice on the sidewalks. People walk past my door on their way to work at the Dockyard. I like to see the uniforms of the Navy men. You might see a line of children going to the Library for the puppet show. They are so cute holding each other's hands. Older children are heading for their school down the street.

In the summer there is lots of noisy racket outside the George Dixon Recreation Centre because the girls and boys are playing basketball. Wednesdays and Sundays you might see my daughter, Rhonda, walking with her friends to Stadacona Naval Base for Cadets. The Base is near by on Gottingen Street. On Gottingen Street we see Scotia Drug Store, the Salvation Army, Kit Kat Pizza and some small family owned grocery stores. Between four and five o'clock people are going home from work and there is a traffic backup going to the Angus MacDonald Bridge.

There are many things I like about my neighbourhood. People are friendly and stores are close by. I like going to the Salvation Army. We have Bible Study and crafts there. Sometimes there is a flea market. I also like coming to

the Women's Group at the Library for the last ten years and to the Literacy Program.

All in all, I enjoy where I live!

Sugar Maple

By Julie Lynn Stanhope

One Sunday in March, 2009 (March 28) Halifax Regional Municipality put on a maple sugar demonstration. A wonderful display was set up at Broad Cove on Lake Banook in Dartmouth. It was a warm, sunny spring day. Lots of people turned out. I went with my friends Heather, Jan and Wayne. We met other friends there, too. As we all walked along the path we came to a



Julie & Suzanne enjoying the festivities at Keshen Goodman

series of information displays with an instructor at each station. We learned about the history of maple sugar in Nova Scotia and saw a bucket of maple sap filling up on a real maple sugar tree. Then we saw how plastic tubing going from tree to tree moved sugar maple sap downhill to fill more buckets below. It takes one whole bucket of sap to make one-tenth bucket of maple syrup. They boiled fresh sap and we all got to try maple syrup spread on top of snow. It turned into maple taffy. We all got to try some. MMM delicious! Of course, we couldn't leave without also buying a few locally made maple sweets to enjoy at home long after our beautiful day together was over.

Chloe the Cat

By Ronnie Holesworth

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

Chloe the cat is the nicest cat in town. She is a lovely cat to look after because she is so friendly. Chloe likes to cuddle especially when we are watching television and when company is visiting. She sits upstairs with my wife's mom

and when we ask her how she doing and her mom will say “she’s fine”. Chloe eats hard food and she has water to drink. She is fluffy and big. Her fur is brown and gray and white, her paws are white.

Chloe weighs about 15 pounds and she is 8 years old. Chloe is very playful. When we have string on a stick she has fun catching and swatting it. Sometimes if there is a loud noise she will hide upstairs; when the noise is over she comes downstairs to play again and to sit on the couch. She is an in-door cat and never goes outside but like to lay on the floor in the living room.

Our Grandchildren

By Anonymous

I have three grandchildren, two girls and one boy. Our granddaughters are ages 4 and 5 and our grandson is 1. The two girls Holly and San live in Calgary, Alberta and Rider lives here in Halifax. We get to see Rider every week and we talk to Holly and San on the phone every week as well. We get pictures and videos all the time so we can see how they are growing.

Holly and San are like twins. They are so close in age. They like the same things. They like to dress up like princesses. They like to draw and like to watch movies. They like to do crafts. They like to make things with spongy forms. The forms have different shapes. They even made cards using the forms and sent them to us. They gave us t-shirts one year with their handprints on them. Maybe some day we will see them again.

Our grandson Rider who is one year old is a really happy child. He smiles all the time. He is a ham. He likes to carry on. He likes to play with his puppy dog Andy. The dog is so gentle with Rider. He will let Rider do whatever he wants and Andy will just watch him. He likes to go for walks with his mom. He likes to eat fruit and crackers. Rider likes to come and visit with us and when he does all he wants is his grandfather. There is no one else. They like to play peek-a-boo. He likes to watch TV. He is going to come and stay with us when our daughter goes to work so we will see him every day. We are really looking forward to having lots of fun together.

Autumn...

By Jane Burchell

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

Chorus:

The season of Autumn
Is the best time of the year,
It brings relaxation
And comforting breezes too.
The leaves flutter and glide
Down to the ground.
Yes the season of Autumn
Is my favourite time of year.

1. Autumn is the season for
Harvest from the land.
The gardens are gathered
From the cold soil ahead.
The farmers make ready
For the approaching winter.
It's the season when summer fades
And Autumn begins.

Chorus:

2. The time of year for roaming
Through the grassy glen.
Listening to the birds' song
Is an enjoyable stroll.
At a distance the fawns
Are showing themselves.
Warmer climates are calling the geese
To visit their shores.

Chorus:

3. The season of Autumn
Is the best time of the year,
It brings relaxation
And comforting breezes too.



*Jane shares a song at the Spring Garden
Road Library*

The leaves flutter and glide
 Down to the ground.
 Yes, the season of Autumn
 Is the best time of year

Room of My Dreams

By Kerry Ann Fitzpatrick

Keshen Goodman Adult Learning Program

For the room of my dreams, I would like to decorate my family room. I would like chocolate brown paint for the walls.

On my window I would like to hang silk burgundy curtains. For my furniture, I would like one love seat for my sitting room. The fabric for my love seat would be cotton with flowers. The colour of the fabric would be burgundy, green, brown and beige. I would like to put two beige Victorian chairs in front of the fireplace.



Kerry Ann catches up with former Keshen Goodman Program Coordinator Shirin at the Christmas party

For the area rug, I would like a rattan rug, with a burgundy border. I would light the fireplace. I would like to hang an oval mirror with a burgundy trim. On the fireplace I would like to place two nice candles and an antique clock in the middle. On the wall behind the love seat I would like to hang a big abstract painting with all the colours of the room.

I would need a fan for the sitting room. It would probably be brown and gold. For the light switch, I would go with the beige.

I enjoy decorating homes and this is the room of my dreams.

Spring

By Irene-Ann Hinde

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

Early in the New Year everybody is waiting for spring. Waiting for the warm sunshine to bring nature to life. The first flowers in the spring are the snowdrops, which come through the snow sometimes. The buds on the trees open and give the trees a green shine, until they open completely and give all the trees their new green leaves.

I like to get up early in spring and enjoy the singing of the birds early in the morning, or I go for a short walk before I go to work.

Not only nature awakes in spring, but people feel more energetic. Plans for vacations are made and cottages are opened, made ready for the summer months...BBQs, getting ready for summer get-togethers and the gardens get a spring clean up, ready for planting.



Irene-Anne with her mother and tutor Kelly at Spring Garden Road

Stray Cats

By Kathy Dobson

Halifax North Library Adult Learning Program

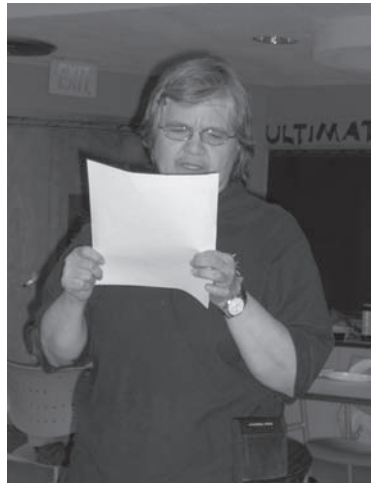
There were four cats sitting around talking about traveling.

They saw a big truck parked with boxes. They looked around to see if anyone was in the truck. Nobody was there, so they jumped in the back. There were four empty boxes, so they each got in a box and fell asleep. After awhile a man came out and got in the truck and when the man stopped they jumped out beside a wharf.

There were boys fishing, so the cats sat and watched the boys fishing. One of

the boys turned around and saw the cats. He asked the other boys where these cats come from? The other boys said, "They must be strays." The boys had a basket to put the fish in. One of them said, "Let's give them all a fish."

After the cats ate the fish, they went to sleep. When they awoke the boys were gone home. They had left some fish for the cats. When the cats were finished eating the truck was still there. The cats jumped in the boxes and the man came out and got back in. When the man stopped the cats woke up and jumped out before the man saw them.



Kathy reads a story at the Halifax North potluck

The next day the boys saw them again and the cats followed them home. They made posters to see if anyone owned them. They waited for two weeks, no one seemed to own them so they took them home. The stray cats had a new home.

Memories of my Grandfather Richard

By: Vicky Isenor

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

My name is Vicky Isenor and I have been working at improving my literacy as an adult learner for the past 12 years. I am proud of my progress. Mostly I am proud that I can write about memories of my childhood and family. I have over 40 relatives. English is my favorite subject and I love to write stories and poems. In the past I wrote poems about my children. This story is about my grandfather Raymond Richard.

My grandfather was born in Watersville New Brunswick. He was a religious man and had four daughters and one son. He spent most of his life in Nova Scotia. He was a very sweet, caring man with many hobbies. My grandfather use to go down to the basement where there was a little woodstove. He would put wood in for a fire. He would also put the kettle on for tea or coffee.

He could take a stick from a tree and make it into a recorder. He would draw pictures of animals, and Santa Claus. He loved to look at magazines of fishing and hunting. He read magazines down stairs when he wanted time to himself.

He took me and his other grandchildren to Gay's River. There, we would fish and swim. We also used to walk in the stream, and collect spring water. My dad still gets water there. We used to fish in Carole's Corner which was close to granddads work. We also picked blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries in around the gypsum. One time when aunt Florene, granny, Florene's kid's and husband and myself were picking berries a snake went between aunt Florene's legs. She was scared and shaken, but afterwards could not stop laughing.

My grandfather loved to hunt with his friends in Nova Scotia. He would camp without needing a tent. He could make shelter for sleeping and a place for cooking out of materials from the forest. One time he made a shelter out of pine tree branches and a tarp. He loved to be outdoors. He also had other hobbies. He loved to watch wrestling matches, he tap danced and he played the fiddle. He taught many of his talents to his daughters as they were also musical and loved to fish.

Another memory I have of grandfather is of being on his veranda with my cousin Lynette. We were jumping and playing loudly, upsetting him and when he tried to settle us down, Lynette stuck her tongue out at him. He chased her to try to give her trouble for it, but she made him laugh so he couldn't be angry anymore. He loved his grandkids. My grandfather was a special man and memories of him painting and drawing, and of taking us on Sunday drives through town or to shop in Truro will always be in my heart.

Improving my literacy skills is important to me for many reasons. I really love that I can write stories like this one about the people I have loved so that I can hold on to those memories. I will continue to practice my skills so that I can write more stories and poetry. One day I would love to share my poems and stories with my children. This motivates me to keep learning.

My Reason for Still Going to Adult Ed.

By Dianne Manuel

Captain William Spry Library Adult Learning Program

This is my second year here. The first year I came here because I needed to better myself for my son. Now I am here because I want to better myself for both me and my kids. I also stay because the teachers and students are very nice and we all respect each other.

Last year I did math this year, grammar. It is hard but I'll get it!

Well, I still look young but the teachers at my kid's school now respect me because they know I'm in school. I guess by improving yourself people respect you more...

Journey from Congo to Canada

By Rukiya Ali

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

Taking an English class with my instructor, Charla Williams, has been my most rewarding experience at my community college. Her advice has brought me closer to achieving my goals. She has changed my approach to learning and now I feel more comfortable using English in my everyday life.



Rukiya & Dominique taking a break from working together at Halifax North

Through her class, Charla has taught me numerous valuable lessons. First she taught how to memorize and take notes. When I had trouble in memorization Charla helped me by telling me to read my notes out loud and to spend at least four hours every night studying. Secondly she gave me advice on how to effectively review my notes, assignments, test and quizzes as way to improve my marks. There are two things I like doing in English class. First, like looking for new words, their meaning and writing a sentence

with these words. Secondly, I love practicing my writing to make understand English better. It has been difficult for me learning English as a second language because I come from Congo and there education is not easy. You have to pay lots of money for education. I come from a big family with nine siblings.

My father did not have enough money for of us to go to school, so I stopped in grade six. When the civil war broke in the country I fled to Uganda with my two daughters. We walked for one hundred and ninety-seven kilometers in three days without eating. We just drank water whenever we crossed a stream. We had no place to sleep when night came, so we slept under trees. We were in a group of twenty people. Most of them were old. After the third day we reached the border between the Congo and Uganda. We went to report ourselves to the police in Uganda. We were interviewed and taken to Kyanguwali Refugee Camp.

In the refugee camp that I was taken to, there was an adult school for English. I went to school for two years. Then I got a chance coming to Canada where I enrolled in the ALP program at the Cunard Learning Centre in Halifax. Now being at NSCC with Charla as my instructor I am very happy. She has given me courage to work hard and never miss classes. She supports me by telling me I can be anything I want to be.

Next year I am graduating from the African Canadian Transition Program. Fatuma, my older daughter is graduating from grade twelve from Citadel High School and Afsa, my younger daughter is graduating from Gorsebrook Junior High School. I will be a very proud mother because my daughters and I will be graduating at the same time.

Today I am having a rewarding experience. My confidence is growing because I know I will achieve my goals. Thanks to Charla for helping me to become who I am and will be what I want to be in the future. Thanks also to Dominique for helping me as a tutor at the Halifax North Library.

The Case for the Seal Hunt

By Donald Wade

Lady Hammond Learning Program

This is a persuasive paper on how the EU ban (on seal hunting) will affect the NS sealing market.

If this ban becomes a law it will have a strong effect on the ground fishing industry in NS. By not having the seal hunt, the sharp increase of 100,000 more in the seal population will have a devastating effect by depleting fish numbers. This will hurt people who rely on the fishing industry.

Taking away the market for seal products will hurt the livelihood of 150 Nova Scotian families. These families rely on this source of income for life as they know it.

Many people will be affected and so will the fish stocks.

Inspiration

By John Hill

Halifax North Library Adult Learning Program

Here we all are again. Sitting in chairs, looking around, eating food, drinking juice, wondering what to write about.

We all started doing this about a half hour ago and will end this exercise about an hour from now. Meanwhile Jenny circulates through the room encouraging us. We are learning to write sentences that will maybe become paragraphs and probably a story. I have about had it, I can't think of anything else to write about. Maybe I could write the date, time and what the weather is outside.

This is my attempt to write a story.

My Dog Rascal

By Shellie Petrossie

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

All my life, I wanted a Sheltie, and five years ago I went out and bought one from a breeder in Enfield. I named him Rascal.

I love my dog very much, but he has three faults. The first is his barking. Whenever I leave the house, Rascal will lose it. He will bounce off the furniture, and bark like crazy until I am out of sight.

His second fault is that he is afraid of water, so when it is bath time it can get pretty frustrating. In the summer, I take him back to the lake, so he can get use to the water and learn to swim. Rascal finds this not too amusing. I try and talk to him as I take him into the water, but the moment I let go of him, he goes straight for the land.

Rascal's funniest problem is that he has a jealous streak in him. He does not like it when my boyfriend tries to get close to me. He will whine and bark at him.

On the other hand, Rascal is a great dog to have around. He loves to cuddle with me or lay by my feet, if not on them. If I am sitting with my legs crossed, he will use my foot that is up in the air as a head rest.

Rascal is fabulous for protecting me and my family, especially if I am home alone at night. He hears everything. When one of my children is sick, and I am at the other end of the house and cannot hear them calling me, Rascal will find me and let me know that I am needed.

When he wants to play, Rascal will bring his ball or toy of some sort and drop it in front of me and look at me with his beady, black eyes, as if to say "play with me". You can see the excitement in his eyes. In the winter, he likes to dig his nose in the snow.

I love Rascal very much. He is like one of my children. At times, he frustrates me with his barking and I then threaten to sell him, although if it came down to it, I could never sell him. He is part of my family!

My Best Friend

By Heather Myatt

Keshen Goodman Adult Learning Program

Joanne is my best friend. She is very nice to me. We go shopping together. Also we go to Tim Horton's for coffee. We go away sometimes. She is always there for me. She is very special to me. She is kind to me. She is pretty looking. We go do things together. She is from Cape Breton. We go to the movies and suppers. She wears pretty clothing. She makes me very happy. When I make her mad she forgives me. She is very funny. With love, Heather.

The Legend of Chris-Craft

By Donald D'Entremont

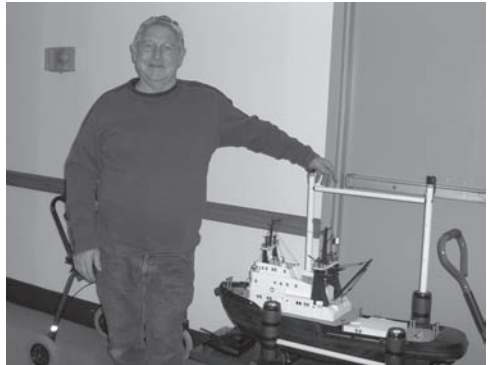
Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

Christopher Columbus Smith was born in Michigan, USA on May 20, 1861. His parents moved to Algonac in 1868.

When Chris was a boy, he loved to hunt ducks. He spent a lot of time doing that. When he was only 13, he built a small boat to go hunting. Other hunters saw his boat and liked it. They asked him to build one for them and he built many boats for them.

He decided to start a business and borrowed money. Eventually, he took on a partner. The Chris-Ryan partnership was able to offer his new 2.5 foot runabout complete with engine and upholstery for \$475.00 FOB. (which means "free on board"?)

A new boat was considered a masterpiece of workmanship and strength. Smith used seven kinds of wood in the construction and particular attention was given to her single step planking angle so that no part of the hull back to her stern would be in the water at high speeds. The experimental engine turning a 25 pound, twenty inch bronze propeller accelerated Smith to 56



Donald at the Spring Garden Road Library

miles per hour in time trials on the St. Clair River. Chris-Craft boats broke several speedboat records.

The Chris-Craft boats became so famous that Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley both bought one.

Hurricane Juan Memories

By Mary Thompson

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

It's 4 AM and I'm looking out the window towards the Dixon Centre . I see a huge tree on the ground and all the roots are showing. It looks like thousands and thousands of little worms trying to get away from the tree but they can't. I am sitting in a dark room now looking at my daughter sleep, wondering what she will say about this mess when she wakes up.

What seemed to be a few minutes was really three hours later when Rhonda was trying to walk out the door to go to school. I told her that there was no school because the power was out, trees were down and there were a few barbecues in the road. So while Rhonda goes to find some flashlights I'm seeing what we could have for breakfast considering we can't cook.

So we took what we could up to my mother's place so she would not be alone, but as soon as we got there I'm second guessing if we should have gone up there because what seems to be part of a roof is on the ground. Those parts are from my mother's roof!

Later she went on T.V. and some strangers fixed her roof. The M and M Company gave a lot of food to our neighbourhood. The Red Cross gave us sweets. We went to Rhonda's grandmothers to play cards and stayed there a few days. She had a battery radio. Some food went bad. We went to our friend's to barbecue some of it before it spoiled. People were very kind to each other during Hurricane Juan.

My Goals

By Irene-Ann Hinde

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

I want to better my education to get into the workforce. I also would like to take a computer course because there's a lot to learn. I would like to get my GED or grade 12. I always wanted to be a veterinarian and I would like to help seniors, maybe as a volunteer. I would like to get my driver's license.

Morning Love

By Rose LeRoux

Captain William Spry Library Adult Learning Program

I awoke to the sound of the alarm this morning. The sun was shining bright. I found myself dragging my feet across the floor to let my dog, Skittles, back into the house, I opened the door and I jumped back. I looked down at the floor and there was a tiny finch sitting there. Its head went from side to side looking up at me. It was no larger than a large sized egg and though it was moving I thought it must be hurt. I bent down and very gently scooped it up in my hands. I loosely closed my hand. I could feel the softness of its feathers and the prick of its claws.

When I opened my hands, there it was my morning love, a Gold Finch. I touched its head. It was very soft. The Gold Finch just sat in my hand looking up at me, then flew away. At that moment, I had the most amazing feeling of love I've felt in a very long time.

That feeling is still in me and after the last few weeks where life has been a struggle, if I can only think of my morning encounter with my little morning love, I will continue to enjoy a sense of inner peace.

Dougie's Family

By Dougie Jamieson

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

Gemini is my cat. She lives with me at my apartment. We are by ourselves. I have two sisters. Their names are Diane and Pam. I have two brother-in-

laws. Their names are Tony and Lee. Lee is my sister Diane's husband and Tony is Pam's husband. Tony and Pam's daughter is named Marion. She is my niece. Marion's brother is named T.J. and he is married to Anne. He is my nephew. Andrew is Lee and Diane's child. His brother is M.J. They are my nephews too.

My mother is Marion. She lives at Alderney Manor by herself. Walter is my father and his wife's name is Kim, my step-mother. Walter is my trustee too. Dad lets me watch the pay-per-view when it comes on at his and his wife's trailer.

I have a son Clarence Walter. He was born on June 23rd and is 19 years old now. I love Clarence and I think about him everyday, and wonder how he is doing. If my son Clarence lives with me we will drive pedal bikes together, watch TV and go camping if he wants to. We will have father to son conversations. We will do fun things everyday together if we live together.

My Story

By Adnan Haider

Keshen Goodman Adult Learning Program

My name is Adnan Haider and I was born in Pakistan. I moved to Canada when I was seven years old for an operation on my legs.

The weather in Pakistan was very hot and during the summer it would reach 30 degrees Celsius. I was very active in Pakistan, always playing with my family and friends. I was a very good student in Pakistan and when I moved to Canada the education was very good, but I still need to learn a lot.

I would like to improve my English and to go back to school so that I can learn more. But people never give me a chance to go



*Adnan & friends at the Keshen
Goodman Library*

back to school and learn, maybe because I had an operation on my legs. After my operation I started walking again like normal but then I started getting weaker and weaker.

Now I need to walk with a walker and I also have a worker who helps me at home. I started doing leg exercises because I thought that it would help my legs. In the future I would like to travel and my goal is to have a job of my own so that I can work with my hands.

Working With Darlene

By Korey MacInnes

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

Darlene is a diligent student, always looking for the next challenge. I'm convinced that she is even quicker than I am at times! I was happy to take on the task of helping Darlene push forward with her literary skills and to take all of the knowledge in her head (a lot of that being sports!) and make sense of it all so she can express it. Darlene does not say no to any task and is dedicated when it comes to solving math problems, I've seen her progress rapidly throughout the months in this regard. As a tutor, I feel that connecting with someone in this way is a reminder that there are ways to improve on anything as long as you have someone there to support you. I feel that willingness and effort deserves attention and guidance, this is one of many ways to channel someone's talent.

The Super Bowl

By Darlene Coulstring

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

The two teams that were playing, Arizona Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Steelers, were battling for the Super Bowl. The score was 27 to 23 for Pittsburgh Steelers. The most important players for Pittsburgh were Ike



Darlene & friends at the Spring Garden Road Library

Taylor and Ben Roethlisberger who completed 9 of 21 passes. But it was Santonio Holmes who caught the final touchdown to win the game. The most important players that were against Pittsburgh were Larry Fitzgerald and Kirk Warner. The quarterback Kirk Warner threw the ball to Larry Fitzgerald.

I always like to watch the Superbowl the best. I thought the Superbowl was the best because Ben Roethlisberger was the best quarterback. In my opinion, he proved it that day

Summer Vacation

By Julie Lynn Stanhope

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program

I went to Cape Breton on the shuttle bus. The bus made so many stops including one at the airport. We also stopped in Antigonish just to eat and use the bathroom at the Quick Stop. Finally the shuttle bus dropped me off at the Shirley Gift Shop. My boyfriend Sandy and his mom Pat Pond were there to meet me. We had supper at his sister Kathy's house with his nephew, his baby niece, his father and his stepmother and brother Robert. We had pizza. We had dessert at his sister Buela's house with his three nephews and two nieces. We had turkey dinner at his mom's house. I helped his mom out to move his grandmother to her new house. Sandy's mom gave me Avon stuff. I got two lipsticks and two perfumes and lots of bathroom stuff. She gave me a pink shawl as well.

Pat took us on a tour. We saw Mabou. We had lobster supper at Sandy's sister's house. It was a giant lobster! I brought lots of stuff back from Cape Breton for different people. His sister Kathy gave us a drive to the bus in Port Hawkesbury. His mom gave me a hug. I would like to see more of Cape Breton as soon as possible.

My Working Life

By Grace McGregor

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

When I was young I had a lot of different jobs, whatever I could get. Then through a government program I got into a cleaning course.

I learned how to clean and wax every kind of floor, how to clean walls and windows the right way, and how to polish anything shiny that's part of a building. I learned about cleaning products that can be dangerous if you don't use them right. And I learned how to work safe without hurting yourself or others in the work place.

Then I got a full-time job at a big nursing home and worked there 25 years. It was all day-shift which I liked. Sometimes us cleaners had a few laughs, but mostly it was just work, work, work.

A nursing home, like a hospital, has to be kept very clean--cleaner than clean because of germs. You clean and you clean, it never stops. You clean bathrooms, toilets, floors, walls, windows, railings, stairs, furniture, cupboards, beds--you name it. You clean things today that you just cleaned yesterday. You feel good when you do a good job of it.

You see and hear all kinds of things in a nursing home. Care workers are very kind to residents, but some can reach their limit and get a little snappy. Most residents are very calm and no problem at all, but some can be trouble. A male resident beat up a female RN so bad he broke all her ribs. She was off work for months. Things like this do happen. It can make you nervous. You have to watch who's around you.

But it wasn't all bad. I was glad to have a steady job all that time and I was a good worker. I finally retired six years ago and now I just enjoy myself.

I still like to keep things clean too. I bet I'll find something or other to clean on the day I die.

Nova Scotia

By Evangeline Brown

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

I was brought up in Nova Scotia and have lived here all my life.

I saw a lot of things happen, especially when I was a little girl. Now that I am an adult I see even more opportunities.

I always wanted to go to school and I heard about the programs at the Captain William Spry Library, the Halifax North Library, the Spring Garden Road and the Keshen Goodman Library.

Nova Scotia is a good province to live in as there is opportunity to learn no matter how old you are. I would urge people to take advantage of these programs.

Come to the Literacy Program!

By Kerry Fitzpatrick

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program

Hi, my name is Kerry Fitzpatrick. I have a son named Cody and I love him a lot. He is my life. That is why I am come to the program to learn to read and write so I can read to him and write notes to him. Someday help him with his homework too.

I am learning a lot from the program. I go to reading and writing and spelling. I write stories about different subject I enjoy everything I do. I would like to improve my spelling.

My tutors name is Movina. She is very nice and understanding and I like her a lot. I hope she is my tutor for a long time.

I would like to learn more reading and spelling so I can work with Cody. One day might find I job. I would like the program to continue.



Kerry & Cody at the Keshen Goodman Library

Bonnie

By Heather Rumsey

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

I like my niece's dog Bonnie who is a golden cocker spaniel. She always likes her belly rubbed and she plays with her toys. The toy she plays with is her turtle and her bone. She has a blanky.

She also likes curling up with her grammie, Aunt Shirley.

After their nap when Aunt Shirley fixes her bed Bonnie decides to have her playtime. While Aunt Shirley tries to make her bed, she plays with Bonnie by rubbing her tummy. When the mail comes Bonnie runs and picks it up. Bonnie waves at my aunt when she wants more playtime.

Thoughts from a New Tutor

By Janet Hollis

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

In life, we make good and not-so-good decisions. The decision to volunteer with the adult literacy program was by far one of my best.

I was apprehensive at the beginning, as my background was in the field of Rehabilitation rather than Education. My qualms were quickly eased at the first meeting with Linda at Captain William Spry Library and the Tutor Basics sessions with Avril gave me a sense of direction.

The personnel and resources available are excellent and I look forward to continuing both as a tutor and a learner. You truly have a great program and a fantastic team.

My Traumatic Accident

By Sarah Holesworth

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

I was always a strong competitor. I won a bronze medal in figure skating at the national games which were held in Bathurst, New Brunswick in 2004. Before that I won three silver medals and one bronze medal at Saint Mary's University in 1990. In between those medals and ever since, I've maintained my competitive spirit.

When we married in 2002, my husband and I decided to participate as a husband and wife team, in every sport from golf to floor hockey to curling

and soccer. In all the time we've participated together, a traumatic injury has never happened to either of us.

On the day of June 14th 2008 while playing soccer for the Special Olympics soccer team, I broke my ankle. I was on a break away, just me and the goalie. I was trying to get control of the ball but my ankle turned awkwardly as I put my foot over the ball.

The thing I remember most was the scary snap that echoed through my body. I fell to the ground in pain and shouted to my coaches that something was wrong with my ankle. The next thing I knew I was on the way to the hospital with an ice pack on my ankle.

While at the hospital, I had to have a lot of x-rays done. I'm not sure exactly why. I guess it may have been to see the extent of the injury. When they positioned my ankle to the left it hurt really badly, more than the right side. I remember my orthopedic doctor; Dr. Alexander, tried to keep things light by joking around with me.

The doctors were confused of what sort of injury I had because the right side of my ankle was swollen and it was not suppose to be. But when the x-rays came back they found out what caused the unusual swelling on my right side. It turned out to be torn ligaments and a fracture!

When I found out what type of injury I had I was a bit nervous and thought it would have to require surgery. At first I felt a bit scared until Dr. Alexander told me that it was only a mild break and did not need surgery but would instead have to be placed in a cast.

I was in a cast for one month. My whole soccer team signed my cast with a bunch of 'get well' messages. The most frustrating thing about being in a cast and shortly after the cast was removed, was that I was not allowed to do certain things, such as walking down stairs and running. When I got my crutches, I was scared about how to balance on them. For the first day I couldn't keep my balance. But my mother and brother showed me how to use them. I was still scared a little bit until I got used to them.

My husband Ronnie was very supportive during my recovery. Everyday

he would take me for walks of slightly increasing distances to help me get used to my walking cast. The hardest time I remember was on a walk to the Superstore, only two blocks away from my place. It was a lot harder than I thought it would be, but I kept trying and eventually made it after about three days of practice.

The most important thing to me during my recovery was not to feel down about myself and always think of the positive things. I know I can still do things but it will take time. Though it has been only 5 months since my injury, I'm now back competing in curling and participating in figure skating. My advice to anyone else who suffers an injury like I did is to never think you can't accomplish something when you know you can.

My Favourite Book

By Jean Dignard

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

I just finished reading *The Secret Garden*. The story was very interesting. I learned some new words. I liked the way the author described the secret garden.

Some of the characters in the story were Mary, Colin, and Dickon. They were the ones who fixed up the garden and made it beautiful. The story had a happy ending.

The Life and Death of a Pharaoh

By Chelsea Elderkin

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

In 1327 B.C. Tutankhamun, a pharaoh of ancient Egypt, was buried in a tomb in the valley of the kings. Thirty-two centuries later, in A.D. 1922, the tomb was rediscovered with all its treasures intact. This was found by a British archeologist Howard Carter and his team. The findings made the forgotten Tutankhamun world famous. In the tomb they found three gilded couches in the shape of animals, and life sized statues clothed in gold. Piled up high all around were inlaid caskets, alabaster vases, egg-shaped boxes, and plenty of chariot parts. Carter lead Cararvon, Lady Evelyn and Callendar down into a small room. There was no sign of a coffin but Carter noticed that

two black statues were guarding a sealed doorway. He realized that this was just an outer room, or antechamber, and that the King's real burial place must lie behind the mysterious closed doors. Carter slowly revealed what looked like a solid wall of gold. It was February 17, 1923 when the team made this discovery. The formal opening of the Kings Annex took place in October of 1927 after seven weeks of clearing the antechamber. He realized then he was in the King's burial chamber. The chamber housed four shrines, fitted one inside the other. There was a great carved sarcophagus at the centre, with more coffins inside.

In the last coffin lay Tutankhamun's mummy wearing his beaten gold death mask.

Beyond the burial chamber, lay a smaller room that Carter called the treasury. Inside were more wonders, a statue of Anubis, the jackal headed god of mummification crouched in the doorway, guarding the room. On the far side stood a huge gilded shrine protected by the figures of four goddesses. All around lay caskets, shrines and chests, containing jewelry, amulets, diadem, magical objects and gold statuettes of the gods and of Tutankhamun himself. There were even several model boats, with their sail and rigging still intact. It was so extraordinary that Carter had to block the doorway so that he wouldn't be distracted while he was working in the burial chamber. The outermost Shrine was made of cedar wood, gilded with inlaid faience (glazed pottery). It was decorated with protective symbols such as wedjet eyes (the eyes of Horus) and dyed pillars. The seals on the door had been broken by the tomb robbers. The second shrine, a linen pall (burial cloth) hung over a rough framework between the first and second shrines.

The doors of the second shrine were sealed, so that Carter knew that the tomb robbers had not reached the King's mummy. The third shrine was gilded and enscribed with extracts from the book of the underworld. The fourth innermost shrine was covered with carvings of gods and goddesses such as, Isis and Nephthys guarded the doors. The sky goddess Nut and hawk-headed Horus looked down from the ceiling. One plain wooden box found in the treasury contained two tiny coffins. Each held a mummified fetus. They were the bodies of two stillborn baby girls. They were probably the children of Tutankhamun and his wife Ankhesenamun. Tutankhamun's mummy was very fragile. The wrapping was decayed and the mummy was so stuck to the

coffin that it took four days to get it out. The gold death mask was stuck to the head and had to be removed using hot knives. Only then was the face of the boy-king revealed at last. The head had been shaved, his legs thinned and shrunk. The skin was badly preserved, it was brittle and gray. Skin on the mummy's face was cracked and the nose had been flattened by the bandages. The death mask showed the king as a handsome young man. He may have looked like this in real life. Tutankhamun had been a slim young man and was probably five foot five. His bones and wisdom teeth indicated that he was about eighteen years old when he died. The archeologists were unable to suggest the cause of death, but a second study held in 1968, uncovered some new evidence. More than one hundred pieces were found on the mummy placed according to the instructions in the Book of the Dead.

Tutankhamun's first golden coffin, was seven foot four inches long. It was made of cypress wood covered with plaster and gold leaf, and decorated with a rishi (feather pattern). The second coffin, also made of gilded wood, was more elaborate than the first. It was inlaid with red and turquoise glass, and blue pottery. Finally, the third coffin was revealed and the team was amazed to discover that it weighed two hundred and ninety six pounds and was made of solid gold. King Tut as he's widely known today, the boy soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, "living image of Amun", and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years and then died unexpectedly. Tut was the last of his family's line, and his funeral was the death rattle of a dynasty. The particulars of his passing and its aftermath are unclear, Tut's death will remain a mystery until new evidence is found. The life and death of a pharaoh has always intrigued people and will fascinate generations to come.

A Walk in Point Pleasant Park

By Kathy Dobson

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

One morning this summer I walked over to the Bayers-Westwood Centre. I went inside and there were other people inside. We all went out and walked over to the bus stop. When the No. 9 bus came, we all got on and went to Point Pleasant Park.

When we got inside the park we walked until we came to a bench. We sat

down and waited. A lady came over and she introduced herself and took a walk around the park with us. Each time we came to an herb we stopped and she would tell us the name of the herb and a bit about it. When we finished the walk, we ended up back where our guide had left her bike. She got on the bike and we waved good-bye to her and thanked her for the walk and telling us about the plants and herbs.

Next we had lunch and then walked back to the bus stop. The No. 9 bus took us back to the stop nearest Bayers-Westwood and we got off and walked to the Centre. We went inside and later on I walked home to my apartment.

April Brings New Life

By Barb Pottier

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

Today is the first day that my new grandson will see his home. I dropped by this morning to put up balloons and a welcome home sign. He is coming home to a house filled with love. His bedroom has been waiting for him for a long time.

His mother has hand painted beautiful colored fish, seashells and octopi. With every paint stroke the love is beaming through, with little glass mirrors bubbling up the wall. You can sit in his rocking chair and all most hear the ocean.

I know in my heart that he will have many adventures under the sea. Just like his father, who is a deep sea diver. I can see the light of life and adventure in his spirit and those precious little eyes.

May God bless him with the wisdom, strength and the ability to love freely. May he keep his head in the clouds and his feet on the ground.

All my love, my little one, I will always carry you in my heart and soul for as long as I live.

Love Nanny Barb, Hugs and Kisses

My First Christmas With My Wife

By Ronnie Holesworth

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

The first Christmas with my wife we enjoyed opening our gifts at the same time. My wife liked the gifts I got her and I was surprised when she got me a special gift that I liked it. It was Toronto Maple Leafs stuff. Then after we were done opening our gifts we got breakfast. Then we got a call from our family to see if we were ready to come to their place for gift opening that day.

My mom got us some real nice stuff to for Christmas. We liked what she got us to. Our nephews were happy to see what we got them. They like hockey stuff so we knew what to buy them and we had the nicest Christmas we ever had together as a married couple. Our families are great to us a lot because they get us some nice gifts that we like. They always know what we like for Christmas. Some times we go to Christmas parties with our friends. We go to their place to have fun just getting together watching Christmas shows on DVD. So, it's a lot of fun going out to parties. Christmas is the best time of year getting together with friends and family.

We are happy to have special friends and family just getting together and having lots of fun.

The Day is Beautiful

By Heather Kinkaid

Keshen Goodman Adult Learning Program

I look in the mirror every day

morning. I'm looking back at my

self. Smiling with you and

my day starting.

I love you as my friend.

The Power of Words

By David Porter

Captain William Spry Tutor & HCLN Board Member

“Well, I had come close to one of these turns, when, feeling forward as usual, my hand slipped upon an edge and found nothing but emptiness beyond it. The stair had been carried no higher; to set a stranger mounting it in the darkness was to send him straight to his death”

I remember reading these lines from Stevenson’s ‘Kidnapped’ under the bedclothes with a flashlight, trying not to disturb my little brother in our shared bed.

I learned the power of words to evoke tension and terror, to take me to other places.

I remember an English teacher in Grammar School placing a pile of paper on the corner of his desk, saying “Here is a list of books I am not allowed to teach you about or even mention. You do not have to take one after class.”

I learned about censorship and dissent and the power of words to be subversive.

I remember the many books throughout my working life that taught me skills I needed, from fixing radar equipment to making furniture, through building fibreglass canoes to making my own tools.

I learned the power of words to instruct, encourage and inspire.

I remember reading history books about propaganda and disinformation, and about the policy of ‘Night and Fog’.

I learned about the power of words to mislead and misinform, and thus the need to read carefully between the lines.

Above all I remember the many books that have evoked both laughter and tears as writers share their lives and their vision.

I learned the power of words to convey love and hope and the sense of celebration in being a part of humanity.

Then I learned that there were many for whom all this was missing from their lives.

This is why I am a literacy tutor.

Learning to Read & Write in Canada

By Kenneth McDow

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program

Part I

I went to the library looking for help to read and write. I did not understand when I was reading the newspaper. I was looking for a job in Halifax. I started going to the library in Clayton Park in 1993 to learn. I started to learn reading and writing.

Part II

I started learning math and history in books in the library in my class. I read books in my

class and did math, too. I started writing with my tutor. Now I have the knowledge to do things myself. I have more confidence in myself to do more reading and writing. I can fill in applications and read newspapers and use the phone book and look up words in the dictionary. I can manage my money and pay all my bills in my home.

Part III

I have also taken computer courses. There was 'Bridging the Gap', a computer workshop, and 'Introduction to the Internet'. In class, we used the computer to learn math, history and typing. I am still coming to the library in Clayton Park. I like to learn more and more reading and writing. I want to get my grade twelve diploma in time and I will, too. I'd like to come back and help other people in the library in my class, to teach other people to read and write stories and make life better for them.



Ken & Cathy relax together at the Keshen Goodman Library Volunteer Week party

Rachael

By Margaret LeBlanc

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

Rachael is my great niece. She was born July 6, 2008. Rachael weighed six pounds and nine ounces. She has brown hair and blue eyes. Rachael is a happy baby.

She liked to crawl all over the house, but now she is learning to walk. Rachael puts out her arms to help her balance as she walks.

A conversation with Jen Hill, May 1 2009!

By Jamie Loomis

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

Jen: Hi Jamie How are you?

Jamie: I'm fine

Jen: I'm fine too. Did you help your Dad today?

Jamie: Yes.

Jen: What did you and your Dad do?

Jamie: Today he helped me deliver flyers

Jen: Where did you deliver flyers?

Jamie: In Dartmouth.

Jen: Did it rain while you were delivering flyers?

Jamie: Yes .

Jen: Uh oh! Did you get wet?

Jamie: Yes

Jen: Oh No! How did you get to Dartmouth?

Jamie: On the number ten bus.

Jen: What do you like better – taking the bus or getting a drive?

Jamie: Taking a bus. The end.

A Trip to Kearney Lake

By Kathy Dobson

Halifax North Adult Learning Program

One day this summer I walked over to the Centre at Bayers-Westwood. Other people had gathered inside for a family outing. When everyone had arrived, we walked over to the bus stop. When we got off we walked to Kearney Lake.

While we were there I held a child's hand while we were crossing the street. I went up to the playground with one of the parents. While I was there I ate my lunch. We stayed there for a while then we walked to the bus stop. When we got off the bus I helped one of the parents with a stroller, then we went back to the Centre. It was a nice summer outing.



Kathy & Jen at Halifax North

The Economic case for Investing in Literacy

By Barb Pottier

This piece was written in response to a lecture by Dr. Scott Murray on March 23, 2009.

When I thought literacy, I thought of people like me. People having a difficult time reading and spelling, but LITERACY is a much BIGGER WORD. It

impacts 47% of us right here in Nova Scotia. And those are the ones we know of. I had the opportunity to attend a talk this week put on by Literacy Nova Scotia, about investing in literacy.

Scott Murray is the president of Data Angel Policy Research Inc. Data he had. We as Nova Scotians and Canadians need to get on board with literacy, because the train is leaving and we are being left behind. We need to make sure our children, grand children even ourselves, have the proper training needed to keep up in these economic times.

I left this talk heavy-hearted, but with the information needed to make changes in my life and the lives of people around me. I meet very hard working people that are trying to make a difference, but it is not enough to just sit here and wait, for someone else to fix the problem. It's up to all of us. Every man, woman and child needs to be of value in our system today.

I understand the meaning of candy coating it. No matter how we were raised, or what part of the world we came from, we need to be educated; also educated about what is happening now and will happen in the future.

The data was jaw dropping to say the least, but there is "HOPE". We just have to invest in our future, today and every day. The Federal 'We' can never give up!

The Halifax Grizzlies

By Robert Lowe

Spring Garden Road Adult Learning Program

The team is tough to get around.

You know how tough we are,
We practice every Friday.
Two different squads.

The second team is the killers.
we are hitting three pointers.

Even the coaches can't get around us.

we got power defence.

We would like to have the Rainmen up if the coach lets them and put a challenge on them for fun.

I wonder if any other basketball teams want to play a for fun game with us.

I like to get our team better in case we get tournaments.

We need a good ref for basketball if we could find one.

It was a good season for us this year better than last year.



Robert & Joan at the Spring Garden Road Library

Getting Started

By Rose Leroux

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

I was fifty years old the day I walked into the Captain William Spry public library. It was a day of fear because this was my first time ever going to a library and at fifty going in to ask for help in math and spelling, maybe someday get my G E D, was horrifying.

But once through the door, I was greeted by Marlene with her lovely smile and understanding eyes. I am sure she saw my fear. Marlene took me to where Linda Oakley was waiting for me. Linda talked to me about literacy and how they would help me. Linda got me in the literacy class at the library.

My tutor's name is Avril. Avril has lots of learning tools to help each and every student in her class. I have found a good friend in Barb, a classmate. We help each other. I feel that with all that I have learned and continue learning I may have my grade twelve some day, so a big hug and lots of thanks to Marlene, (my first smile), Linda (my first introduction to the learning program), to Avril and Barb. You make learning fun. I look forward to the rest of my learning .

Let's Get on to Some Creative Riding

By Ken Boudreau

Halifax North Library Adult Learning Program

It all started when I was young. My parents brought me to a circus and there I saw elephants and lions and much more. Then it was time for the clowns. They were so much fun to watch, they brought out their unicycles and rode them on a tight rope and juggled. At times it was like watching the Three Stooges: they were amazing. It looked like they were having so much fun. Later on in life I had the chance to work in a bicycle shop and there I saw a three-foot unicycle. I knew if I did not buy one I would never learn to ride one. If I knew how many times I was going to fall off I might not have bothered.

After a lot of tries and a little pain I learned how to drive it. After I learned to ride, it seemed I was driving my unicycle everywhere, it became like my means of transportation. One year I rode it to Mt. Uniacke to my sister's place. I left at noon and arrived at 8:00 pm. It seems long but unicycling only goes a little bit faster than walking. My brother-in-law couldn't believe his eyes when I rode up his driveway. Later on I bought a five-foot unicycle. It was more of a challenge but maybe it was more fun. After a while I was riding it as much as my three-foot unicycle or maybe more.

But it seems like anything I do I always need to go bigger, so I built a nine-foot unicycle. It must have weighed 60 or 70 pounds! The size and weight did not matter to me: I needed to drive it. The only way I could get on it was by stepping off a second storey balcony. On my first try I drove it about 10 feet before I fell and chipped my ankle. It took me some time to walk again after surgery – yes it took me months! I ended up cutting up my nine-foot unicycle, not because I could not drive it but because it was too heavy to drive.

My next achievement is to build a three-wheel unicycle. Maybe at the end of the year I will have it completed, and maybe I'll have another story to tell.

The Old Rookie

By Gary Mullins

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program

Although far from a rookie at life, I am a mere rookie at tutoring. In just my second year, my first year with Alix is winding down. Alix is going for her GED and then on to college. The road to the GED has not been without its bumps along the way, but the end goal is well worth it.

Last spring I had the pleasure of attending my son's graduation from college. Even though I tutored him a little with math, he mainly did the schoolwork himself. My biggest part with him was raising him from grade four as a single parent. Even so, when Alix graduates from college, I expect to feel more a part of her success.

I find tutoring a lot like parenting, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. Also like parenting, you have some control, but often the end result depends on the child or the learner. Also like parenting, the successes you have are well worth the bumps along the way.

The Lost Woman

By Jane Burchell

Spring Garden Adult Learning Program

Two older gentlemen cattle ranchers, living alone in their old, three bedroom family home, worked from daylight 'til dark caring for their animals. Once in a while they would dress in their finest and drive in town to have a good cooked meal at a restaurant.

One evening, after dark, while driving home from town the men spotted a car parked on the side of the gloomy road. Should they stop? Thinking it was someone that needed help they hauled over the pickup truck. Sitting in a blue rundown car was a young woman and a little girl.

“Hello,” said Raymond. “do you need help?”

“Yes,” she answered, “my car gave out.”

“Mind if I have a look?” Raymond asked.

Lifting the hood he checked the engine.

“Your sparkplugs need changing and your battery is low. How far did you come?”

“I came from town,” she replied. “I must introduce myself. My name is Victoria Roubideaux. I have a little girl, she’s two years old and her name is Katie. I feel very afraid and I have no place to live. My friend and I were sharing an apartment when we crossed words and she ordered me out.”

Harold and Raymond looked at one another and said,

“We live in an old family dwelling just ahead. I’m sure there’s room for one more. You don’t worry. We’ll talk when we arrive there.”

When they arrived they talked with Victoria and she had a home with them for as long as she wanted to stay. Victoria was very pleased and excited with the plan.

Being there a couple of weeks she received a phone call from the Collins University saying she had been accepted for her course. Victoria was very happy with the good news but she was thinking about Harold and Raymond and how they might feel.

When the two men arrived home from their hard days work Victoria told them about the phone call. They were surprised that she had put in for a course. Victoria spoke and said, “I guess I’ll be moving on. This course starts in two weeks.”

The next day the men took the day off and drove Victoria into town to find an apartment. It was a sad day for all. They found a nice apartment on the outskirts of town.

The following few days were spent busily packing. Later that week they made the move to Victoria’s apartment.

Now the longing began. Everyone was sad. The two men hung around not wanting to leave.

Everyone involved had a tear in their eye. Victoria told them not to worry. She would phone them once a week and visit them on days off.

The men left to go back to an empty old house.

My Younger Years

By M. Jackson

Captain William Spry Adult Learning Program

I was brought up on 2266 Creighton Street in North End Halifax. My grandmother and grandfather raised me. I got on well with both of them. It was nice living there. I enjoyed going to the store. I liked going to the store for other people in my building. They would pay me for going and I would get things to eat like ice cream and candy. I would go to the movies. I liked Disney Movies. I still do. I liked to go to the bakery down the street on Gottingen for cream puffs. They were flaky pastry with a filling like Dream Whip and icing sugar on top.

Most of my friends were boys. We all used to hang together. I was a tomboy. I used to play street hockey, baseball, skipping rope and hula-hoop. My best friend at that time was Alvin. I haven't seen him since my grandmother passed away. We used to do a lot of things together. Go to the movies. My grandfather would take us to watch baseball games on the Common. Alvin's Dad did the same thing. On Sundays we would play bingo and I used to cheat. My grandmother did a lot of cooking and cooked for a lot of people in the building.

My grandmother passed away when I was nine or ten and I had to go and live with my Mom and Dad. I had to live with seven other kids and I was used to being the only child at my grandparents. My grandmother took me after my twin sister died at about three months of age. It was difficult for me. That was the time that I started messing up at school. I just found it really hard to get a relationship with my Mom. Only one younger sister understood how I felt. She lives in Ottawa now. We keep in touch and she just became a grandmother.

I joined the army cadets when I was 14. I earned money. I went to Gagetown for six weeks in the summer and I got paid for that. \$100 was a lot of money back then. An incident happened when I was up there. Someone was breaking into the cafeteria. One of the cadets tried to slit his own throat. It was very scary. It was in the news. My Mom wanted to know if I wanted to come home, but I didn't.

When I was 15 or 16 I went with my aunt to Montreal. She was also like a Mom to me. I lived up there for a while and it didn't work out the way I wanted. She was having difficulties in her marriage and I was right in the middle. About a year or two later, I moved back home even though I didn't want to. I stayed at home for a couple of months and then moved in with my older brother and babysat for him and his wife.

In 2001 I moved to Spryfield. The reason why I moved was that my house was broken into and, they took my stereo, and I saw the shooting of a 20 year old. I tried to stop my daughters from seeing it too. They were seventeen and eight years old. It was a week before Christmas when we moved and I felt so much better.

Things have been more relaxed since I have been living here. I am trying to make my life better by accomplishing at least one of my goals. I came back to school at the Captain William Spry library when I moved. I used to go to the one on Gottingen Street. Last year, I was coming twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Coming to the program helps me keep motivated. I want to get into the Nova Scotia Community College and I would like to take a small appliance course. I would love the program to be open more hours on more days so that I could get more done.

The only thing that is stopping me reaching my goals is my health. A lot of days it gets frustrating. It is being spiritual that helps me a lot. God only gives you no more than you can handle. I take one day at a time.

I would like to find my family tree. That means a lot to me and I would tell my girls I knew it to so they can tell their children and how they are I think every family should know. I thank God every day for my blessings.

Going Across Canada

By Nancy Mashall

Spring Garden Library Adult Learning Program

A month after graduating from elementary school, I had a fantastic opportunity to go on a trip across Canada. My foster-mom helped me with the choice to go across Canada or go to Camp Tidnish in New Brunswick. My mother was so excited for me that she enthusiastically suggested that going across Canada would be more of a thrill than either of us realized. Mom and I both thought that it would be an excellent graduation present for me. After five minutes of thought, I happily decided that I wanted to go across Canada as this was my chance to explore Canada and spread my wings. This was going to be a month long trip and I would have memories of this trip for a lifetime.

A month later in July, 1981, I started the trip with my teenage friends. One of these friends happened to be my boyfriend which made the trip even more worthwhile. We were a group of sixteen excited teenagers travelling with 4 counsellors from Halifax to Vancouver. This trip was made possible because our former Camp Tidnish Director had received a government grant to take us on the journey. It is my opinion that the reason the camp director was able to get this special grant was because it was 1981, which was the year for the disabled. This grant allowed her to take disabled teenagers who wouldn't otherwise have had such a great opportunity as this. My friends who went across Canada with me had different disabilities. Some of my friends had Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy, or Cerebral Palsy (like myself).

Our journey started out by driving to visit the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. This was the first highlight of the journey and at that point we happily moved on. There were those who didn't know what to expect when it came to the next leg of the journey. We left Halifax and took the ferry to the next province, Prince Edward Island. We drove through P.E.I. and stopped in Charlottetown for a quick visit. After we finished sight seeing in P.E.I., we took the ferry to New Brunswick. In New Brunswick, we stopped at a church and camped inside with our sleeping bags. The next morning, we ate breakfast inside the church and then we went on to Quebec City. While in Quebec City, we stopped at a camp ground that was full of mosquitoes and flies. Unfortunately, we didn't enjoy our supper of beans and wieners because

there were too many mosquitoes and flies flying into our meals.

A day or two later as we arrived in Toronto we all were happy to visit the CN Tower which was the tallest building in the world. The CN Tower was educational and interesting. In July of 1981, we visited the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. We were also invited to sit in on a televised Question Period regarding the postal strike. Another highlight we experienced on our travels was the privilege of meeting the Premier of Nova Scotia, John Buchanan. After chatting with the Premier we went to see the government's Library. This Library occupied one huge room. Then our counsellors were directed to a cafeteria where the heads of the government eat. It was a privilege to eat in this dining room.

The next leg of the journey took us across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. While driving across the Prairies we realized how vast the land was and how it stretched out for miles. After leaving the Prairies we drove to Winnipeg where the counsellors took us on a shopping spree. After the shopping spree the counsellors had decided to continue moving towards British Columbia. When we stopped in British Columbia we went directly to the Butchart Gardens just to ponder over the floral beauty; we found the scenery breath taking. Then we set out to visit the Rockies in Vancouver; what a magnificent sight to see! There was snow on the mountain tops. The last leg of the journey took us as far as the Yukon and the North West Territories.

I only wish now that I could take another trip to re-visit those provinces and territories with a group of my friends today. The reason for this second trip is to reflect on the memories I created back in 1981. Then I could create some new memories by taking more pictures of the tourist sites. All the tourist attractions had a mystic beauty about them that mesmerized me so much that I'd like to capture them on camera. This would lead to a deeper appreciation of Canada and the freedom you and I definitely have because we live here.

The Joys of Tutoring

By Valerie Cheel

Keshen Goodman Library Adult Learning Program

I like tutoring for the Literacy program for two reasons - one altruistic and one selfish.

First, I think that community involvement is very important. Too often, we lament the loss of connections with our neighbours, and volunteering for an organization that supports a cause I hold dear is one way I build and maintain my relationship with the community. Every person has the right to be able to function in a society that demands literacy and numeracy, even if that person has been unsuccessful in a conventional public school setting.

Second, I have fun being a tutor. I am an incurably nosy person (I like to think I'm "interested in people"), and tutoring encourages me to meet and talk to and learn about more people. I relish the challenge in thinking of new ways to explain things that I have known so long that I can feel them in my bones--and I love the thrill of living vicariously through someone who accomplishes something big, whether that is achieving a GED or writing a letter for the first time.

This summer, I intend to keep working with my learner towards the goal of understanding basic math, and next year I'll be back at the library as many Thursday nights as I can, being nosy and building my community.

In was another busy year of learning at HCLN with students, staff and volunteers participating in workshops, lectures, literacy events and of course, our annual celebrations.

From Making Math Fun with David Pilmer to Write On with Jenni Blackmore, everyone at HCLN enjoyed the opportunity to meet others and explore new ideas. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a year of learning together!



Margaret & Ronda try out voice-activated software at the Halifax North Library



David Pilmer makes math fun at Learning Together at the Captain William Spry Library



Learning Tutor Basics with Avril Lewis



Meredith Hutchings teaching tutors to Look Under Rocks for new ideas about reading and writing



Doug Oakley shares a story with everyone at the Halifax North Christmas Party



Julie reads her story at the creative writing workshop with Jenni Blackmore



Prizewinning students at the Adult Learners' Week celebration at the Citadel Inn

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